

I'm concerned about recent NAB and terrestrial broadcaster's efforts to limit the Weather and Traffic services on XM Satellite Radio, to which I subscribe, and also Sirius Satellite Radio.

XM not only followed the spirit of the agreement with the NAB but also the letter of it. The XM Weather and Traffic Service is available nationally, not locally. The content is local, not the service. If this service is deemed local then it follows that the Weather Channel, can not, can not mention the temperatures in cities served by NAB members.

I live in a rural area that is not served directly by the XM Weather and Traffic Service but I use it to keep track what is happening in the home cities of friends and family. It is also a boon when I am in a city that is served, since it allows me to know where I will get the information without fiddling with the AM dial.

This sort of protectionist move by the NAB and other terrestrial broadcasters is ludicrous. Most of them provide very little actual local programming. The good radio stations, like WGN in Chicago will thrive no matter the competition from satellite radio because they offer true local content.

Clear Channel and other conglomerates offer for the most part canned national programming. They have also commercialized traffic reports by selling the locations. No longer can you tell how long it will take to get from point A to point B -- well known local landmark. You now hear the time it takes to travel between advertisers.

The terrestrial broadcasters have also promoted the myth that if they are not protected and go out of business there will be no emergency news in disasters. Look at this logically. If the terrestrial broadcaster is knocked off the air by a disaster, those folks who have satellite receivers will still be getting important emergency information -- the satellite broadcast will not be silenced in a local disaster.

Stifling the free market place is not beneficial to the consumer who has voted with their satellite radio dollars. Please do not give unearned and unfair protection to terrestrial broadcasters. Please serve the interest of the free market and let the consumer of the programming vote with their dollars as to which services flourish or die. Old technology and old ideas do not deserve this undue protection in the face of better new technology and ideas. If satellite does not provide a better service, the consumer has enough sense to make that decision for his or her self. Please allow consumers the chance to continue to enjoy the superior national satellite radio weather and traffic services.